

- 18 -

CLAIMS:

1. A method of generating a spray comprising subjecting a liquid on a continuous atomisation surface to acoustic vibration, characterised in that the continuous atomisation surface comprises multiple hollows from which the liquid is atomised.
5
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the multiple hollows cover 50% or greater of the atomisation surface.
10
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the depth of each hollow is 5 mm or less.
15
4. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the hollows tessellate.
5. A method according to any of the preceding claims,
20 wherein the hollows have the same cross-sectional shape.
6. A method according to any of the preceding claims,
25 wherein the continuous atomisation surface comprises multiple hollows having hexagonal cross-sectional shape.
7. A method according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the continuous atomisation surface comprises multiple
30 hollows having square cross-sectional shape.

- 19 -

8. A method according to any of claims 2 to 7, wherein the hollows cover 90% or greater of the atomisation surface.

5 9. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the hollows have vertical walls.

10. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the hollows have flat bottoms.

10

11. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the liquid to be atomised is present in the hollows at an amount of 50% or greater of the volume of the hollows.

15

12. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the acoustic vibration is at frequency of from 2 to 55 KHz.

20 13. A method according to any of the preceding claims, for the generation of a spray in the domestic environment.

14. A method according to claim 12 or claim 13, for the generation of a cosmetic spray.

25

15. A method according to claim 14, for the generation of a deodorant spray.

30 16. A spray device comprising a continuous atomisation surface, a reservoir for holding the liquid to be atomised, means for transferring the liquid from the

- 20 -

reservoir to the atomisation surface, and means for subjecting the continuous atomisation surface to acoustic vibration, characterised in that the continuous atomisation surface comprises multiple hollows from which the liquid is atomised.

- 5
17. A spray device according to claim 16, wherein the means for subjecting the liquid to acoustic vibration comprises an acoustic vibrator which is in contact with the underside of the atomisation surface and a control means for activating the acoustic vibrator.
- 10
18. A spray device according to claim 16 or 17, wherein the continuous atomisation surface comprises multiple hollows having a hexagonal cross-section.
- 15
19. A spray device according to claim 16 or 17, wherein the continuous atomisation surface comprises hollows in the form of slots or grooves.
- 20
20. A spray device according to any of claims 16 to 19, wherein the means for delivering a liquid to the atomisation surface enables supply of the liquid from the underside of said atomisation surface.
- 25
21. A spray device according to any of claims 16 to 20, comprising a means of generating airflow adjacent to the upper side of the atomisation surface.

- 21 -

22. A product comprising a spray device according any of claims 16 to 21 and a liquid cosmetic composition for spraying therefrom.

5 23. A product according to claim 22 wherein the liquid cosmetic composition has a viscosity of equal to or greater than 10 mm²/s.